

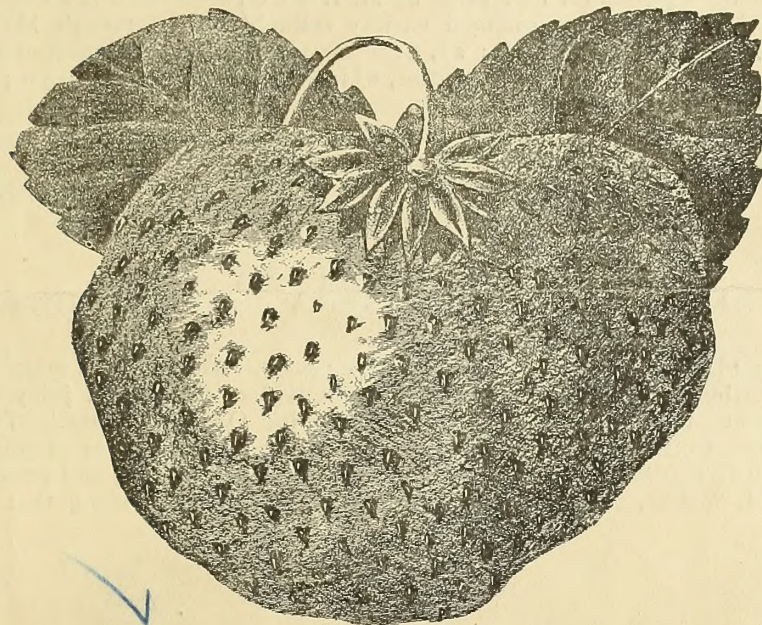
Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

New Twice Bearing French Strawberry.

1898

Wash, D.C.



"Louis Gauthier." (Natural Size.)

Each year brings its new kinds, but few are good enough to take the places of those now in cultivation. From long experience and observation I think I may safely assert, that the strawberry world would experience no loss if all sorts were destroyed, except the six following: "Bedar Wood" and "Noble" (early), "Bubach" and "Belt" (2d early), "Gandy" and "Parker Earle" (late). For a combination of size, shape, color, flavor and firmness, Laxton's "Noble" outclasses all other berries, except "Gandy." The last-named is not much praised by the Nurserymen because it is now out of their hands. Nevertheless, no American berry can compare with it in general qualities. Indeed, I hold it in such high estimation as to have risked sending it to England two years ago. If there is another strawberry of ours which can command respect in the Covent Garden Market I have never seen, heard or read of it. The "Louis Gauthier" deserves to be added to this short list, and will create a sensation among berry growers whenever its merits are known. I claim for it two distinct qualities not found in any other sort—enormous size and a twice-bearing habit by means of its runners. After several failures, I obtained living plants of this variety in 1896, but could not afford to allow the few surviving plants to fruit—wishing to work them for runners. So as far as I am aware the "Gauthier" has not been fruited in this country. There is no question, however, as to its ability to succeed here. It is vigorous in every direction. Its dark green, thick, tough leaves resist diseases, and enable the plant to hold out against drouths. My plants are now in cold frames and thus far I am more than pleased with their growth habits. For the last month I have been picking off buds and blossoms. The leaf stems are strong and long. Leaves extra round, and of a deeper green than any of the thirty kinds in cultivation here. The staminate flowers are very large and beautiful. This morning I selected several and found them to measure one and five-eighths inches across. They are borne on bold fruit stalks extending well out. Fruit buds not clustered close together as in the "Bubach" nor crowded around the crowns as with the "Warfield," but branching out on long petioles along the fruit stem, making picking and thinning easy. Its fruiting propensity must be very great. Last fall I took off runners as late as October, and runners from runners up to the 5th and 6th generations. Yet there has not been a single plant which has not shown buds and blooms. The "Parker Earle" is shy on runners but without doubt our greatest crown and berry maker. The "Gauthier" has these two qualities just as well developed, and adds the ability to make runners freely. This combination is so unusual, that I wish to call the attention of strawberry specialists to it. Last summer I had runners from the old plant to throw out two side runners at a time before the first had struck roots. Their tenacity to life, and ability to root quickly, adapt it well to propagation by cuttings.

The *Revue Horticole* does not boom fakes, and its distinguished editor-in-chief, M. Ed. Andre, says the following in the September, 1895, issue:

“‘The Louis Gauthier’ originated with M. L. Gauthier, gardener to the Chateau de Greutheville (Calvados), France. It comes to maturity on the last of May. The growth habits of the plant are extremely vigorous. Early to start, leaf stems remarkably long, leaves medium size, velvety, very round, of a beautiful dark green above and light beneath, with profuse nerve webs. The flowers are large and perfect, extending well up to the summit, looking like a bouquet. The fruit is borne on a long stout fruit stalk. Calyx well developed, with many serrations extending well over the fruit which is large and cone shaped. Its color is light rose, flesh white, seeds pale yellow, standing out. Flavor acidulated, perfumed and juicy. This beautiful fruit has been grown for four years by M. Louis Gauthier and is a cross between the Alpine perpetual, ‘La Belle de Meaux,’ and an unnamed variety resembling ‘Lebreton’s Marguerite.’ Its dominant qualities are—1st, a vigor extraordinary; 2d, a production enormous, a hundred and sixty berries having been counted on one plant; 3d, a white rose color, which is rare among large sorts; 4th, a large size, surpassing that of ‘Doctor Morere.’

“This novelty is precious to the amateur as well as to the market gardener, and will prove of great intrinsic value to obtainers.

“ED. ANDRE.”

Extracts from same, October, 1896. No. 4093 (Calvados).

“The strawberry ‘Louis Gauthier’ has distinctive characteristics which make it a novelty of great merit. Again we describe it. Its fruit is extra large and plentiful, sweet, juicy and perfumed. The flavor is a mixture between the American sorts and the ‘Alpine Quatre Saisons.’ The runners from the old plant give a second fruiting in September. A special commission was appointed by the Central Horticultural Society of Calvados which visited the Chateau de Greutheville and presented M. L. Gauthier with a silver medal. M. Walter, one of the visitors, signed a certificate stating that five selected berries weighed 570 grammes.

“ANDRE.”

Extract from “Gardeners’ Chronicle,” February 15, 1896.

“An apparently fine and valuable new strawberry under the above-mentioned name, which was originally described by M. Andre in the Paris *Revue Horticole* for September 16, 1895, is now being sent out by the well-known French fruit nurserymen, Messrs. Letellier & Fils, of Caen, who are also the introducers of the new spineless gooseberries raised by M. E. Lefort, of Meaux. M. Andre sums up the distinctive characteristics of this new strawberry under four heads: 1st. Its extraordinary vigor of growth; 2d. Its enormous production of fruits—as many as 160 fruits have been counted on a single plant; 3d. Its white or blush white color, so rare among large-sized strawberries; 4th. Its considerable size, which exceeds that of the well-known variety—‘Dr. Morere.’ Its first crop ripens about the last week in June, and five of the finest berries were then found to weigh 570 grammes, or about 19 oz. The runners are produced early in the season, and quickly come to maturity, producing under favorable circumstances a second crop of fruit, about the month of September, which is not quite so large in size as the fruit produced in June, are of equally fine flavor, and should prove most acceptable at that period of the year. Messrs. Letellier assert that this is absolutely the first large-sized strawberry from which two distinct crops can be gathered in the same year.”

William Rushforth, of Leeds, England, and a high authority on strawberries, writes under date of January 29, 1897.

“‘Louis Gauthier’ bears well here, and I feel certain it will do well in America. The size of the fruit in first crop is far larger than Laxton’s ‘Noble’ and much superior in flavor. Your runners will fruit this season—*But do not separate them from the parent plants.* The ‘Louis Gauthier’ I can and always have recommended with the greatest confidence.”

Having a small stock of this sort and wishing to place it in as many hands as possible, I shall only sell a limited number to any one address. Plants, 25 cents each.

Below is a description of the six best known and most profitable sorts. Many other kinds can be had on application.

"Bedar Wood." (S.)

A charming first early. Plants healthy, moderately strong, making runners freely. Fruit larger and better flavored than "Crescent," and of fine form, color and flavor. Very productive. 30 cents per dozen.

"Noble." (Laxton's.)

Here we have a berry for a fancy market. Some Western Nurserymen, to whom I have sent plants, report "Noble" and Laxton's "Captain" and "Commander" as of robust, healthy growth. I have fruited them for six years and they have no such record here. The two last named were too unhealthy to keep, and were plowed under two years ago. The "Noble" after cropping is afflicted with "sun spots" and rust, but presents a fine appearance in the spring and fall.

Under careful garden culture it is a little beyond anything I ever saw in the strawberry line. Size somewhat larger than "Belt," "Timbrel," "Brandywine" or "Mary." Shape, a perfect cone; color, deep bright red, running well to the centre. Its flavor while not the best is as good as "Bubach," "Haverland" or "Marshall." Productive, considering weight. It is the standard for large size in England just as "Dr. Moreau" is in France. Plants, 40 cents per dozen.

Bubach. (P.)

Best known and most popular berry. No grower can afford to be without it. Large to extra large. Splendid for near-by market. Plant strong, vigorous, and just about right as to runner making. Foliage ample, clean and free from disease as any. Can stand high feeding without detriment to fruit. Its defects are: Rather irregular shape, only moderately firm, flavor not above average, fruit stalks rather short. Plants, 30 cents per dozen.

"Marshall" and "Belt"

Are so much alike that the description of one answers for both. They are earning a splendid reputation and score high in good points. Plant tall, healthy and strong, making many strong runners. Fruit extra large, roundish in form and second to "Noble" in shape. Firm for such large berries. Color a bright dark red, and fairly well flavored. The "Marshall" has been a prize winner and in more demand than "Belt," but, all essentials considered, is not a better sort. Plants, 30 cents per dozen.

"Parker Earle." (S.)

In spite of defects the Earle is going to get into the hands of every market gardener who has any regard for dollars and cents. For hill culture it is unrivaled. Plant growth strong. It stools up faster than any sort except the "Gauthier." Those who dislike the bother of runners, will find it just the thing. Fruit medium to large, of good regular shape, with a slight neck, making picking easy. Color, scarlet crimson. Fairly firm. Its fruiting period is quite long, ripening with the second Earlies and lasting as long as the "Gandy." Enormously productive. Some growers state that it fails to ripen all the fruit it sets. This is a fault in the culture and not in the plant. For eight years I have obtained a berry for every bloom. Defects: Berries larger than "Bedar Woods" and many other sorts, yet too small for fancy trade. They lack in flavor and too acid. The plants rust badly after cropping. Plants, 30 cents per dozen.

"Gandy." (S.)

Extra strong plants, disease-resisting, large dark green leaves mounted on long stout leaf stems. Plant tall with an open growth. Strong runners with long arms. Unlike "Gauthier" the late runners of this variety often fail to make fruit. Productive in measure if not in number of berries. Berries large to extra large, shape considered. A very large calyx extending well over the top gives berries a fresh appearance. Flavor unapproached by any other American sort. Being firm it is a good traveler and our markets are well supplied by distant growers. It does not ripen until the other large sorts are at their worst, and though not bringing as much per quart as earlier sorts at their best, holds the market when it comes, and quoted at a price above all others it meets in competition. "Gandy" beds can be fruited profitably five or six years—other sorts have not proven profitable with me except as annuals. The reason for this I think lies in the fact that "Gandies" in matted rows do not crowd each other out by excessive runner making, for after the second year they hardly make any. Being a strong-rooted, upright grower, they shade and choke out weeds. Defects: Some say that the fruit is dull in color; others, ever hard to please, say it is a shy bearer; and so it is. But why grow sorts which require thinning out to get good berries when you here have a sort which Nature thins for you? Plants, 30 cents per dozen.

"Alpine Perpetuals."

People should advertise strawberry plants under their proper names. There are no everbearing sorts except the "Alpines." I notice in two catalogues sent me "Salzer's *New* Everbearing Strawberry." In both cases the size of the fruit was purposely omitted, otherwise the "Alpine" would have betrayed itself. One writer said he had faith in Salzer and paid him \$6.00 per hundred for plants. I think I could duplicate his plants for \$2.00 per hundred and probably furnish a newer and better sort. All of the "Alpine" family are small, the bush or runnerless being the smallest. The rest range from the size of a wild mulberry to that of a good size blackberry. They are all soft and not of so high a flavor as the "Scarlet," "Pine" and "Wood" families. They are very acceptable, though, after the large sorts have gone. There is no doubt as to their ability to bear from May until a killing frost without the skip of one week. They are rampant runner-makers, and their runners frequently show buds and flowers even before taking root. The seed from "Alpines" comes true to name, and seedlings produce larger and better flavored fruit than when runners are used. Treated as annuals the seed with me is always sown in shallow window boxes in February. The little plants, when transferred to rich ground, grow so rapidly that they ripen fruit in five months—just after the large sorts have gone. Plants, 25 cents per dozen. Seed, 20 cents per package.

"Alpine Perpetuals."

Quatre Saisons "La Belle de Maux." Best known sort.

The four seasons "Berger." Larger and longer than the above.

The four seasons "Janus." Much like the "Berger."

The four seasons "Ameliore." Very long, frequently $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The "Bush" or "Runnerless Alpine." Very small and soft.

Rare Varieties.

As soon as runners can be taken off I can supply plants from the following choice sorts: "British Queen" (English standard for flavor), "Magoon," "Mexican," "Laxton's Royal Sovereign," "Chilean," "Crimson Australian," "Lebreton's Marguerite" and "Goldsborough's Eastern Shore." The last is the choice seedling from 400 plants grown in 1894, from mixed French and English seed and will be heard from before long. Can supply plants in the fall from "Letelleir's Spineless Gooseberries," also from the "Texas Spineless Gooseberry," also "Austin's" or "Maye's Dewberry" tips, also the "French Everbearing Red Raspberry" and "First and Best" raspberry. The latter raspberry ripens with strawberries, being borne on the old wood instead of on young spring shoots.

Sweet Violets.

"**Marie Louise**" (double).—Best known kind. Very large, fragrant, lavender blue flowers borne on long stems.

"**Swanley's White**" (double).—Flowers white, very large and fragrant, plants strong and healthy. The best known white.

"**Madame Millet**."—Large, double, reddish-purple flowers. A rare color. Cherry bloom fragrance.

"**Farquar**."—Differs little from the "Louise." Large, double and fragrant.

"**Lady Hume Campbell**."—Like the "Farquar" but color much lighter, being of a pale lavender. Plants of the three first named, 5 cents each, 50 cents per dozen; last two, 10 cents each, \$1.00 per dozen.

Orders filled by post or express.

Address:

A. T. GOLDSBOROUGH,

WESLEY HEIGHTS,

WASHINGTON, D. C.